

WATTLE

Acacias of Australia

Acacia hilliana Maiden x *Acacia stellaticeps* Kodela, Tindale & D.Keith



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See illustration.

Family

Fabaceae

Distribution

Scattered in north-western W.A. from the NW edge of the Pilbara region N to Anna Plains Stn, adjacent to Eighty Mile Beach.

Description

Spreading, multistemmed, **resinous, glabrous shrub** 0.3–0.4 m high and 1–2 m across, ±flat-topped or low-domed, not noticeably aromatic. Bark grey. **Branchlets** obscurely **tuberculate**, obscurely ribbed. Phyllodes solitary or occasionally 2 or 3 in clusters, mostly **linear** to **narrowly oblong**, **acute** with **innocuous** to coarsely **pungent** points, 15–30 (–35) mm long, (1–) 1.5–2.5 (–3) mm wide, flat, rather wide spreading, mostly **straight** or shallowly **recurved**, often finely longitudinally wrinkled when dry, dull green to **sub-glaucous**; **longitudinal** nerves 3 to numerous, very obscure; **gland** obscure, 0.5–2 mm above **pulvinus**. Inflorescences **simple, erect**; peduncles 10–25 (–30) mm long; spikes **obloid** to short **cylindrical**, 10–15 mm long, golden. Flowers 5-**merous**, buds subacute; **calyx** very shortly dissected. **Pod** (few seen) **erect**, narrowed at both ends, flat, 40 mm long, 5 mm wide, **straight, woody**, opening elastically from apex, longitudinally nerved, red-brown; margins thick, pale coloured. Seeds **longitudinal**, seated pronounced depressions, **oblong**, c. 6 mm long, brown; **funicle-aril straight** and narrowly conical.

Phenology

Flowers May.–July.

Habitat

Grows in deep red, sometimes gravelly sand or less frequently on low rocky hills, in Pindan country with spinifex ground cover. It is not common in the places where it occurs.

Specimens

W.A.: c. 25 km E of De Gray R. crossing (between Port Hedland and Broome) on Great Northern Hwy, *B.R.Maslin 8743* (NSW, PERTH); 31.1 km W of turnoff to Eighty Mile Beach camping ground (near Wallal Downs) on Great Northern Hwy, *L.Thomson LXT1172A* (PERTH).

Notes

Field observations and plant morphology suggest that this taxon is a hybrid between *A. hilliana* and *A. stellaticeps*. Most collections record the two putative parents as growing with or near the putative hybrid. See B.R.Maslin *et al.*, *Wattles of the Pilbara* CD-ROM (2010), for further discussion.

Plants from between Port Hedland and Anna Plains, W.A., that were referred to by NSW, *Fl. Australia* 11B: 228 (2001), under *Acacia* sp. E are referable to this putative hybrid. *Acacia* sp. E is described here as *Acacia* sp. Barklys (J.L.Egan 124) and although superficially very similar to the putative hybrid it has a more northerly distribution, its spikes are often longer and its phyllodes are often broader, more commonly shallowly incurved and have the (very small) gland further removed from the pulvinus.

FOA Reference

Flora of Australia Project

Author

B.R.Maslin

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a mobile application:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions
Western Australian Herbarium



Australian
Biological
Resources
Study



URL: <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>
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